

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 DHA-02
SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /069 W
-----116812 051715Z /46

O 051547Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8060
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH
AMDEL TAIF IMMEDIATE 004
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
NSC WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC

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DAMASCUS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USIA FOR IOP/M

FROM DCM MATTHEWS (AMBASSADOR IS IN ALEXANDRIA)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.) EG IS XF US
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SUBJECT: AUGUST 5 MEDIA REACTION TO SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: A) CAIRO 13036 (B) CAIRO 13013

1. SYRIAN PORTION OF SECRETARY'S TOUR RECEIVED ONLY SECONDARY COVERAGE IN CAIRO MEDIA AUGUST 5. TOP BILLING WENT TO SADAT-ARAFAT MEETING (REF A). REPORTING COVERED ONLY

SELECTED PORTIONS OF ASAD PRESS CONFERENCE AND STRESSED THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA AGREE ON ALL ESSENTIAL MATTERS AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE PREVAILS. PRESS CITED ASAD AS SAYING FACT THAT SYRIA AND EGYPT DID NOT CONSULT ON WORKING GROUP DOES NOT MEAN THERE ARE DIFFERENCES. ACCORDING TO "ARAB SOURCES" IN DAMASCUS ASAD REPORTEDLY COULD ACCEPT WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL PROVIDED MEETING WOULD BE CONNECTED ONLY WITH PREPARATIONS FOR CONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE. ASAD WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, GO ALONG WITH WORKING GROUP IF IT COULD BE TAKEN AS SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA. "ASAD'S VIEW-POINT IS IN LINE WITH THAT OF EGYPT."

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON STATE OF PLAY UNIFORMLY DEVOTED TO DEFENSE OF EGYPTIAN EFFORT TO COORDINATE ARAB POSITIONS AND FOIL ISRAELI MANEUVERS. IDEA IS "BOLD AND PRINCIPLED RESPONSE" TO VANCE PROPOSALS "WHICH WERE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO EGYPTIAN VIEWS". WORKING GROUP IDEA ORIGINATES IN CAIRO (I.E. IT IS NOT AN EGYPTIAN CAPITULATION TO U.S. OR ISRAELI PRESSURES). EGYPT IS FIRM IN ITS DEFENSE OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA. IT IS COMMITTED TO TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

3. FONMIN FAHMY CONFERRED WITH SOVIET CHARGE AKOPOV AUGUST 4 FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR. AHRAM SAYS DISCUSSION COVERED RESULTS OF VANCE VISIT, BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ME PEACE CONFERENCE. IT WAS DECIDED THAT GROMYKO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE AT END OF AUGUST. HUNGARIAN CHARGE TOLD DCM AUGUST 5 THAT, ON CONTRARY, THERE WERE NO FIRM PLANS FOR GROMYKO VISIT. CHARGE THOUGHT IT PARTICULARLY UNLIKELY IN VIEW SADAT'S RECENT ATTACKS ON SOVIETS OVER LIBYA IN RECENT ABC INTERVIEW (SEPTTEL).

4. COMMENT: PRESS TREATMENT OF ASAD REACTIONS AND EDITORIALS INDICATE GOE ON DEFENSIVE. THIS IS FURTHER REFLECTED IN ATTENTION GIVEN TO ARAFAT VISIT, ALMOST CERTAINLY EXAGGERATED ACCOUNTS OF ACCOUNTS OF PALESTINIAN APPROVAL OF GOE STANCE, AND GOE BACKING COMPLETELY AWAY FROM DIRECT ARAB-ISRAELI CONTACT IN NEW YORK. ARAFAT HIMSELF APPEARS TO HAVE LEFT WITHOUT MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENT.

5. ALTHOUGH MEDIA STILL USING TERM "WORKING GROUP" AND DEFENDING IT AS EGYTIAN PROPOSAL, REFTELS MAKE CLEAR THAT WORKING GROUP CONCEPT, IN GOE VIEW, IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR GENEVA AND DOES NOT INVOLVE DIRECT CONTACT WITH ISRAELIS. THE LATTER POINT IS CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT FROM IMPRESSION GIVEN DURING SADAT-VANCE PRESS CONFERENCE.
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Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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